

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A process for the production of vitamin C from L-sorbose ~~comprising converting a substrate into vitamin C in a medium~~ using a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium*, said process comprising contacting cells of said microorganism in a reaction medium containing L-sorbose and isolating the produced vitamin C from the reaction mixture and optionally further purified.

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Ketogulonicigenium robustum*, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare*, [[or]] and mutants thereof.

6. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Ketogulonicigenium robustum* NRRL B-21627, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30035, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30036 and *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30037.

7. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the process is carried out at a pH of about 4.0 to about 9.0 and at a temperature of about 13 to about 36°C.

8. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the process is carried out at a pH of about 5.0 to about 8.0 and at a temperature of about 18 to about 33°C.

9. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the process is carried out at a L-sorbose concentration of about 2 to about 120 mg/ml.

10. (original) The process according to claim 9, wherein the process is carried out at a L-sorbose concentration of about 4 to about 100 mg/ml.